

May 4, 2011

Presented by Diane Gibbs
Director of Community Health Programs, Healthier Communities Department, Spectrum Health.

Chairman Pavlov & Committee members, thank you for this opportunity to provide these comments on behalf of the Spectrum Health/Grand Rapids Public School partnership.

Grand Rapids Public School and Spectrum Health have partnered to develop a Health Science & Technology School on the campus of Central High School, just blocks away from the main campus of Spectrum Health and several facilities of higher education.

Spectrum Health has committed to this initiative \$150,000 per year over 3 years along with funding of a full time position for the same period to serve as a liaison between Grand Rapids Public Schools and Spectrum Health.

We know that:

- The health industry is one of the fastest growing industries in our nation today, and the need for health care workers is increasing.
- Curriculum needs to align to prepare students for the health science and technology needs of the future and link education with career skills and real-life experiences.
- One of the goals of the SH/GRPS partnership is to increase the number of GRPS students who choose a health career and thus invests in the health of Spectrum Health's future workforce.
- As a health care provider, we need a well-trained, committed workforce that reflects the diversity and values of our community to care for the people of our community.

Public/Private Partnerships

- The Centers of Innovation have provided the opportunity for Grand Rapids Public Schools to foster relationships with the public/private sector to develop innovative school choices connected with high growth industries, like health science.
- The other high schools in Grand Rapids Publics have strategic partnerships relevant to their Centers of Innovation, such as the Academy of Construction & Design, Business & Entrepreneurship, and Grand Rapids Area Pre-College Engineering Program.
- Students benefit by exposure to a curriculum that relates academic learning with career interests goals and abilities.
- Employers benefit by readying a more viable and experienced workforce, and investing in the economic health of the community.

Advisory Council

- Through our partnership we have established an active participatory Advisory Council that has provided direction and support in the development and implementation of the Health Science & Technology High School.
- Leaders of Spectrum Health, Grand Valley State University, Michigan State University, Ferris State University, Grand Rapids Community College, Grand Rapids Public Schools, Central High School staff as well as leadership from the community provide their expertise in building this Center of Innovation at Central High School.

Health Science & Technology Implementation

- The Health Science & Technology staff was personally interviewed by Spectrum Health and higher education staff.
- Time and effort was spent during the first year of this project in professional development and reflection sessions to create a shift in school culture.
- Relationships were established between teaching staff, Spectrum Health and higher education.
- The first year of project implementation ended with a complete transition of Health Science & Technology teaching staff and some administrators. Staff transitioning into the Health Science & Technology was not interviewed by the partners committed to implementation of the Health Science & Technology concept. This resulted in having to start all over in introducing the staff to the Health Science & Technology vision and culture. Basically repeating all work done with the staff during the first year.

Consistency is essential to ensure that students receive quality learning experience. That the state laws need to be amended to give maximum flexibility in a limited, strategic, targeted manner for districts like GRPS. Reforms need to be protected by allowing the educational teams to be selected and maintained over a period of time -- it is about long term stability and growth and creating an educational environment.

Thank you again for the opportunity to provide these comments today.

Diane Gibbs

Director, Community Health Programs, Healthier Communities
Spectrum Health

"This isn't about schools-it's about our community. The schools are our community and they impact the future of who we'll be tomorrow, in terms of our workforce, our economy and our ability to grow and thrive here"

-Matt VanVranken, President

Spectrum Health Hospitals, Grand Rapids

Contact Us

If you'd like to lend your time, knowledge and talents to this exclusive partnership, please contact:

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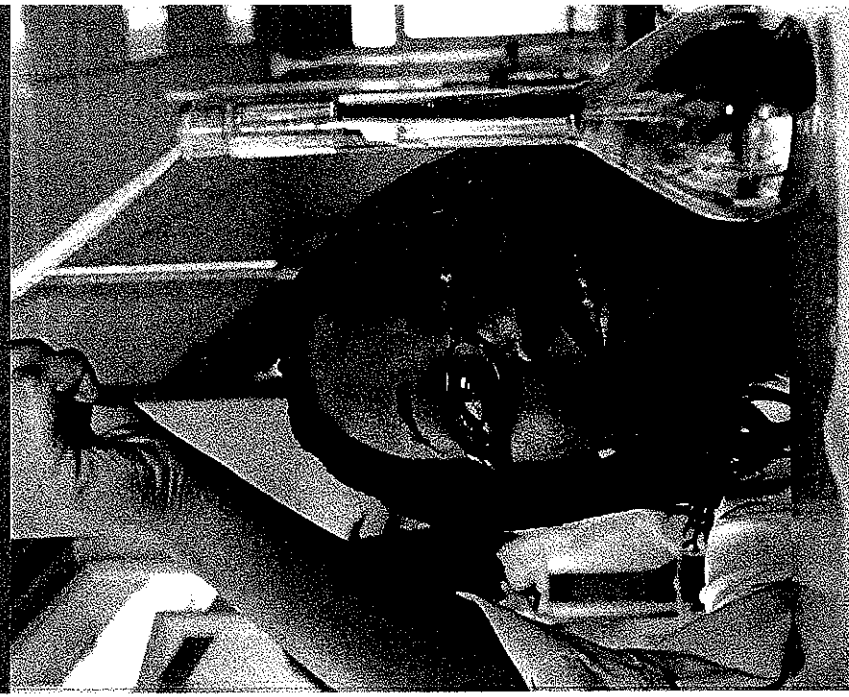
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You can also learn more about the School of Health, Science and Technology by calling (616) 819-3276 or visiting grpublicschools.org.



Health, Science and Technology School Partnership

Grand Rapids Public Schools
and Spectrum Health



Building a Healthier Workforce

"This isn't about schools—it's about our community. The schools are our community and they impact the future of who we'll be tomorrow, in terms of our workforce, our economy, and our ability to grow and thrive here."

—Matt Van Vranken, president,
Spectrum Health Hospital Group

Building a healthier staff ensures a healthier hospital setting—and a healthier community in the years ahead. That's why Spectrum Health has partnered with Grand Rapids Public Schools to develop the Health, Science and Technology School. Located on the Central High School campus, adjacent to the "medical mile," the Health, Science and Technology School has been designed to connect students with leading health care employers.

The ultimate goal of this unique partnership is to give students interested in the fields of health, science and technology preparation for their college education, as well as a jumpstart on a rewarding career in the fastest-growing industry in West Michigan. By pledging \$150,000 annually over three years and dedicating a full-time employee to drive the initiative, Spectrum Health is further investing in the health of our future workforce and the place we proudly call home.

A Firsthand Look at the World of Health Care

Students enrolled at the Health, Science and Technology School will connect to the real workplace through a variety of activities and opportunities. In an interactive environment, participants will discover firsthand the challenging and exciting world of health, science and technology. Workplace experiences may include:

- Job shadowing and observations
- Internships and mentoring
- Service learning
- Tours
- Career fairs and speakers
- Employment

Goals of Our Partnership

The goals of the Spectrum Health/Grand Rapids Public School partnership include:

- Collaborating with the Spectrum Health talent acquisition team to expose students to various health care careers
- Increasing the number of Grand Rapids Public School students who choose a health care career by linking education with career skills and real-life experiences
- Aligning the education curriculum to prepare students for the health, science and technology needs of the future
- Employing Health, Science and Technology School students at Spectrum Health

Benefiting Students and Employers Alike

Students benefit by:

- Developing academic and future career skills by exposure to a health-science curriculum
- Examining career interests, goals and abilities
- Learning about the vast range of health careers within their chosen pathway
- Valuing education as a lifelong process
- Gaining knowledge through observing and interacting

Employers (and the community) benefit by:

- Contributing to the growth of a life-sciences corridor in Grand Rapids
- Investing in the economic health of our community
- Readyng a more viable and experienced workforce
- Diversifying their workforce, gaining opportunities for early recruitment of potential employees, and enhancing creativity and innovation in their workplaces
- Sharing their expertise and helping to fuel ongoing interest in the field of health care